

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-06

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

USMISSION USNATO

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PERSONAL FOR EUR ASSISTANT SECRETARY DESIGNATE HARTMAN
AND H ASSISTANT SECRETARY WRIGHT.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OTRA, MARR

SUBJECT: VISIT TO US BY WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION ASSEMBLY (WEU)
COMMITTEES

1. THE TWO KEY COMMITTEES OF THE WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION ASSEMBLY, THE COMMITTEE ON DEFENSE QUESTIONS AND ARMAMENTS AND THE GENERAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, COMPOSED OF PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM THE NATIONAL LEGISLATURES OF BELGIUM, NETHERLANDS, LUXEMBOURG, FRG, UK, ITALY AND FRANCE, PROPOSE TO VISIT THE US IN THE FIRST HALF OF NEXT YEAR. THEY HOPE TO MEET WITH SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE USG, MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND ACADEMICIANS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE CURRENT AND FUTURE NATURE OF ATLANTIC DEFENSE, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL RELATIONS. WE ARE REPORTING THE DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED VISIT BY SEPARATE TELEGRAM.

2. I BELIEVE THIS VISIT MERITS THE ACTIVE SUPPORT OF
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PAGE 02 PARIS 32528 201809Z

THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS. FIRST, IT OFFERS

US AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPOSE A LARGE NUMBER OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS TO OUR VIEW OF THE ATLANTIC RELATIONSHIP, WITH THE EXPECTATION THAT THEY WILL CARRY AT LEAST A PART OF THAT MESSAGE BACK TO THEIR RESPECTIVE LEGISLATURES AND PEOPLES. SECOND, AS WE PRESS OUR NATO ALLIES TO ASSUME AN INCREASED SHARE OF THE FINANCIAL COST OF US ASSOCIATION WITH NATO, WE SHOULD TRY TO OBTAIN THE SUPPORT OF PARLIAMENTARIANS OF NATO COUNTRIES AS WELL AS OF GOVERNMENT LEADERS. MUCH ALLIED OPPOSITION TO FINANCIAL AID FOR THE US SEEMS TO BE FOCUSED IN PARLIAMENTS. THIRD, TO THE EXTENT THAT THE US CONGRESS REMAINS UNIMPRESSED BY THE SIGNIFICANT DEFENSE EFFORT ALREADY BEING MADE BY OUR ALLIES, WEU PARLIAMENTARIANS CAN EXPLAIN TO THEM WHAT EUROPE IS DOING FOR THE COMMON DEFENSE.

3. WE REALIZE THE LARGE NUMBERS OF PRIORITY VISITS THAT COMPETE FOR THE TIME AND ATTENTION OF ADMINISTRATION AND CONGRESSSIONAL LEADERS IN WASHINGTON, AND HAVE MADE THIS POINT TO WEU OFFICIALS. NEVERTHELESS, I HOPE THAT YOU WILL GIVE YOUR PERSONAL SUPPORT TO THE VISIT, AND THAT STATE, DOD, MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND OTHERS WILL BE ABLE TO MEET WITH THE PARLIAMENTARIANS.
IRWIN

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